(b) whether it is also a fact that the lowest bidder for this contract is Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL);

(c) whether efforts are afoot to give the contract to NPCC of Abu Dhabi on the ground that MDL is not in a position to offer a financial package;

(d) whether Government would ensure that MDL is not starved of funds and not made to lose contracts; and

(e) whether the ONGC itself would finance the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The tender was discussed in the Steering Committee meeting of the ONGC. The Steering Committee decided to seek best reduced prices (inclusive of customs duty and excise duty) from all the technically acceptable bidders. ONGC would also inform the bidders that they are not looking for any financing package/ credit facility in this project.

Sitting up of two petroleum refineries in North India

8041. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up two grass-root petroleum refineries in North India;

(b) if so, what is the estimated cost of each refinery; and

(c) what is the capacity of production of each refinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Government has already approved the setting up of a 6 MMTPA capacity refinery at Panipat by Indian Oil Corporation Limited at an estimated cost of Rs. 3868 crores. There is also a proposal to set up a grass-root refinery in Uttar Pradesh. The details of the proposal are being worked out.

Purchase of Gas Stoves with New LPG Connections

8042. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory to produce a receipt of having bought a gas stove, to get a new gas connections;

(b) if so, whether this condition is clearly stated in the allotment letters issued for gas connections;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether some agencies, including M/s. Nihar Gas Service, Bharat Gas Distributors, 149, Pocket-D, Mayur Vihar, Phase-II, Delhi-91, are pressurising consumers by harassing them, to buy gas stoves from them at higher prices, than those prevailing in the open market; and

(e) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

(d) and (e) Sometimes such complaints are received. The customers are at liberty to purchase hot-plate from any source provided it bears the ISI mark. The distributors have standing instructions not to insist on purchase of hot-plate from them and are required to display a notice in their showrooms that it is not obligatory for a customer to purchase hot-plate from the distributors releasing the connection. The Marketing